



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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**Tara B. White, Chair
Michele Shalaby
Nathaniel H. Yohalem
Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, March 23, 2015
6:30 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Tara B. White, Chairman
Michele Shalaby
Nathaniel Yohalem

Others Present: Joseph Kellogg, Administrative Assistant
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary
Tim Newman
Julie Ruth – "The Record"

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2015 Selectmen's Executive meeting and approve the March 16, 2015 Regular Session as amended.

Rt. 57 – Joe Kellogg will contact Monterey and Sandisfield to discuss Rt. 57.

Wired West - Joe Kellogg advised that any Prop 2-1/2 question has to be voted on at least 35 days before the election. The debt exclusion question will read as follows:

"Question No. 1"

"Shall the Town of New Marlborough be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and a half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds to be issued in order to fund the Town's share of the costs of construction, installation and start-up of a high-speed broadband network, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town's Municipal Light Plant?"

A motion was made, seconded and so approved to put the Wired West article on the ballot at the Annual Town Election in May 11, 2015.

Treasurer's Position – A motion was made, seconded and so voted to appoint Peter M. Gay as Treasurer, starting at \$20 per hour, contingent on his bondability, effective March 22, 2015.

Budgets – The Board of Selectmen reviewed the following budgets:

Police Salaries	\$93,517	Increase \$6,260
Emergency Management Salary	\$ 4,330	Level Funded
New Marlborough Rescue Expense	\$56,350	Level Funded
Stabilization Fund	\$10,000	Decrease \$40,000*
Tax Title Treasurer	\$ 6,000	Increase \$1,000

*\$90,000 will be taken out of Free Cash and \$10,000 will be appropriated in order to continue an annual contribution to Stabilization

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the above 2016 budgets.

SBRSD Operating/Transportation Expense	\$2,504,250	Increase \$81,957
SBRSD Capital	\$ 82,832	Decrease \$871

The Selectboard decided it would not approve the above two budgets unless the school in Monterey closes. Although the Selectboard requested SBRSD to level fund the budget, it was increased by 3.23%.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to reject the School Operating/Transportation Expense budget.

A letter will be sent to the School Committee with copies to Monterey, Alford, Sheffield and Egremont advising them of the New Marlborough's Finance Committee's and Selectboard's decision to reject the Operating/Transportation budget.

Selectman Yohalem voiced his disapproval of the Capital Budget, stating he does not like "pools" of money that have not been appropriated to any school. For instance, there is \$30,000 in that budget that has been earmarked for outlying schools. The SBRSD has allocated \$400,000 in the capital budget to cover the needs of the elementary schools for FY16.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to reject the above SBRSD Capital budget.

If at least two of the five towns turn down the school budget, it must go back to the SBRSD.

Town Administrative Structure – Joe Kellogg would like to advertise for an Town Administrator as opposed to Administrative Assistant, explaining that does not clearly define what the position entails. He felt with this title designation change, more applicants would apply for the position, as there has only been one resume received. This new designation would have to go on the warrant at the Town Meeting in May. If approved, Joe will place another ad in the appropriate periodicals, newspapers, etc. and will present to the Board the proposed article at the next Selectmen's meeting.

Administrative Updates – Per Joe Kellogg, the budget is complete. He will now focus on the Town Report.

Selectmen's Updates – The Transfer Station will be closed April 5, Easter Sunday. The Planning Board Assesory Bylaw will be sent back to the Planning Committee and the Committee can hold a public meeting. **A motion was made, seconded and so voted to refer the Bylaw back to the Planning Committee to schedule a public meeting.**

Wired West – Tim Newman expressed his desire to do a Power Point presentation or have a hand-out at the Town Meeting regarding Wired West. The Board decided not to grant his request as there are many things to be discussed at the May meeting. .

Lee Audio – Joe Kellogg to review their proposal to reset passwords and will sign the contract if approved. **A motion was made, seconded and so voted to have Joe Kellogg review the Lee Audio contract and sign it upon his approval.**

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary